

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of) Attorney Docket No.: **ASAIN0173**
Kazuhiko KATSUMATA)
Serial No.: 10/562,498) Confirmation No.: 6594
Filed: December 27, 2005) Group Art Unit: 3749
For: GAS COOLING TYPE VACUUM)
HEAT TREATING FURNACE AND) Examiner: Gregory A. Wilson
COOLING GAS DIRECTION)
SWITCHING DEVICE THEREFOR) Date: May 18, 2009

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

MAIL STOP: RCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office
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401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, this Information Disclosure Statement in connection with the above-identified application is being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b):

- within three months of the filing date of this application (not a C.P.A.);
- within three months of the date of entry of the National Stage;
- before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or

X before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits of, after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under §1.114.

A copy of each non-U.S. document identified on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A is

Attorney Dkt. No. ASAIN0173
Serial No. 10/562,498

attached, however, in accordance with Official Gazette Notice dated August 5, 2003, copies of the U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached.

The attached documents have all been cited in related co-pending United States Patent Application No. 10/599,034, filed September 16, 2006 entitled "DOUBLE-CHAMBER TYPE HEAT-TREATING FURNACE" (Attorney Docket No. ASAIN0188). Their relevance is believed to be clear from their relation to the subject matter of the present invention. Accordingly, no further comment with regard to the disclosures of these documents is believed to be required.

It is respectfully requested that the attached documents be considered and officially cited, and that the Examiner initial a copy of Form PTO/SB/08A and, and return it to the undersigned to indicate that the documents have been considered.

It is believed that the present Information Disclosure Statement complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-8, but should the filing of this paper necessitate a fee, the Director is hereby authorized to charge the necessary fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1281.

Respectfully submitted,

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